NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The quantity and value of crude and petroleum products to be imported during the current year (1995-96) would depend on international prices, indigenous crude production, materialisation of the refining capacity and actual materialisation of demand.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation is the designated canalising agency for import/ export of crude oil and petroleum products.

(d) No commission is involved in the import arrangements made by Indian Oil Corpporation Limited.

Indian Efforts to become a Member of Security Council

894. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minsiter of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last concluded UN Session the question of expansion and enlargement of Members of Security Council was discussed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian delegation had solicited support of some friendly countries for becoming member of the Security Council; and

(d) if so, the decision taken at the Session and also the outcome of opinion sought by the country for becoming Council Member thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A large number of countries made statements on restructuring of the Security Council. India expressed willingness to serve as permanent member of the Security Council. Mauritious, Bhutan, Dominican Republic and Cuba specifically supported India's inclusion in permanent members' category of the Security Council. Several others supported a broad-based expansion which would include developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America as permanent members. The Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Special Commemorative meeting of the Heads of State/ Government to mark the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations called for further indepth consideration of Security Council restructuring since important differences on key issues continue to exist.

Ban Impsoed on Indian Vessels by Sri Lanka

895. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lankan authorities have imposed a ban on the entry of sailing vessels of less than 1600 tonnes capacity into the harbour at Colombo Port;

(b) if so, whether it has adversely affected Indian Trade with that country as Indian sailing boats operating in the region are of far less capacity;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from cargo vessel owners of Tuticorin in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and to lift the ban imposed on Indian vessels with results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sri Lankan Government have imposed ban on the entry of sailing vessels, with wooden hulls and of a gross tonnage of 1,600 or less into Colombo Port from 26.4.95.

(c) and (d) The National Boatmen's Union, Coastal Sail Vessel Owner's Association have brought to the notice of

the Govenrment that the restriction imposed by the Sri Lankan Authorities mainly affected the traditional sailing vessels traffic from Tuticorin to Colombo.

(c) The Government had strongly taken up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government. The Sri Lankan Government has intimated that due to security reasons they are unable to permit access to Colombo port by sailing vessels to enter Colombo port. The Sri Lankan authorities have offered alternative facilities to the small sailing vessels at Mutwal fisheries harbour, in addition to Negombo, Beruwela and Galle ports. A small delegation, arranged by the Ministry of Surface Transport and including representatives of vessel owners associations in Tuticorin are scheduled to visit Sri Lanka for further discussions on ways to resolve the issue.

India's Nuclear Option

896. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reaction of Government with regard to the recent nuclear test conducted by the French Government which is estimated to be five times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb;

(b) whether Government have considered the question of exercising its nuclear option to meet the country's security challenges with the continuous development and testing of nuclear deterrent by the major nuclear power countries and guess of going nuclear by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) In a statement issued on 15 September, Government expressed dismay over the recent nuclear tests and, *inter alia*, urged all countries to refrain from actions contrary to the objectives of the CTBT which is currently being negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva.

(b) and (c) The security situation of India is constantly under review, particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood and government will take all necessary measuress designed to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

PCOs in Delhi

897. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCOs functioning in Delhi at present;

(b) what are the criteria followed for installation of PCOs;

(c) what are the reasons that sufficient PCOs are not installed on the roadside in the capital region;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some of the PCOs particularly outside Delhi Gate Telephone Exchange are locked at night thus preventing the telephone users from making distress telephone calls in emergency; and

(e) what steps Government are contemplating to ensure availability of sufficient PCOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No. of PCOs working at present in Delhi are (as on 1-11-95) Local-19241 STD/ISD-3896.

(b) STD/ISD PCOs are provided to educated unemployed persons. For urban area the qualification is 10th Pass and for rural area, it is 8th Pass. Local Payphones are provided keeping in view the suitability and technical feasibility.

(c) Highways and other important roads falling within the jurisdiction of Delhi are reasonably covered by network or Payphones.

(d) Sir, specified minimum working